

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 6:00 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members Laurie Colgan and Chris Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Tom Maclay and Will Schwarz (Fire Department); Nick Seifert and Wes Cate (Energy Committee); Steve Fiske (Conservation Commission); James Arisman (Constable)

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: none

Public Comment: none

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of August 15th and September 5th.

Old Schoolhouse Common: Steve Fiske notified the Board that the Conservation Commission would like to add some plantings to the Old Schoolhouse Common grounds. They would like to use edibles such as fruit trees and berry bushes, good for people and wildlife. He has developed a potential list with Nicko Rubin, and a tentative map. Nicko would donate some of the plants. The Conservation Commission would put up signage to explain the project. This would be over several years. Chris asked about maintenance; Steve said mowing would have to be done a couple of times a year. The Conservation Commission would weed whack around them. The areas would have to be brushhogged before planting. Chris stated that the road crew might not have time to do that this season. Steve will ask around to see if anyone in the area has a brush hog. He wondered also if the town has any wood chips. Chris stated that the road crew blows their chips into the woods, but maybe they could talk to Asplundh or Norm Dix to see if they have any. Nick Seifert encouraged them to plant edibles that can be eaten directly from the bush, noting that elderberries are toxic if they aren't cooked. Laurie asked that the Commission should avoid additional maintenance and be mindful of their budget, and put up signs. Other than that, the Board had no objections to the plan.

Marshfield Dam: Nick Seifert explained that Michael Cerulli Billingsley has spoken at the Energy Committee meetings to provide information and encourage action related to some maintenance issues and deficiencies that he is aware of at the dam. Nick referred the Board to a letter that Michael has sent, and would like to encourage the Selectboard's participation in the upcoming dam safety meeting with Green Mountain Power. He noted that Michael would be willing to attend a Selectboard meeting if the Board would like more information. Will Schwarz explained that the Town had two significant flooding events in 2011, and after those events, the Town had meetings with GMP and GMP stepped up and provided inundation maps to each town between the dam and Waterbury. He stated that the Fire Department feels comfortable with their procedures, but he can't speak to the issues at the dam. Steve Fiske suggested that those concerned should get in touch with the Department of Environmental Conservation, because even though the dam was built before

licensing, it falls under the jurisdiction of the dam safety department. Nick stated that Michael is trying to set up a meeting with GMP and local officials. Chris will contact them as well to try to set up the meeting.

Purchasing: The Fire Department is planning to purchase a machine to wash their gear; the particulates on the fire gear after a fire are often carcinogenic and hazardous to the fire fighters. The machine costs \$3,500 but it is coming out of the Ed Duke fund, not out of the town budget. The Board noted that the Ed Duke fund is not tax money, so Selectboard pre-approval is not required. The Board modified the purchasing policy to set a limit of \$5,000 for a purchase from the Fire Department's budget that would not require pre-approval.

Police: Tom Maclay noted that cars traveling on Creamery Street are far exceeding the speed limit. Laurie suggested that there should be a school zone sign on Creamery Street, and that might increase the fines for anyone caught speeding. The Town received notice of a bill being proposed in the legislature that would require towns to provide primary police coverage. Chris and Bobbi will attend informational meetings about the bill.

Davis vicious dog order: Chris will go and look at the fence installed by Vivian Davis, to see if it meets the requirements in the Selectboard's order. Chris and Laurie expressed concerns that Ms. Davis plans to leave the gate open at times. They stated that if there is another incident, the dogs will be seized.

Stranahan Town Forest: The Stranahan Stewardship Committee has applied for a grant from the USDA Forest Service. The Selectboard signed a letter of collaboration between the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, SE Group, and the Town. There is no monetary cost to the Town.

Old Schoolhouse Common: The Board approved a request for fee waiver for use of the Old Schoolhouse Common gym for a Destination Imagination event.

Roads: Chris updated the Board on the grant that the Town has received to work on road erosion projects, and stated that some of the grant will have to be used for Cassady Road. The logging that was done on Cassady Road resulted in ruts and erosion to the road.

Vacancies: Chris moved to appoint James Barlow to the Selectboard until Town Meeting, provided that he resigns as Lister as the offices are incompatible by statute. Laurie seconded - all in favor.

Lanesboro Road: The sign that was the subject of a recent complaint is not in Marshfield because the beginning of the road is in Peacham; the vehicle is not blocking the view of anyone on the road. Chris will check with the Road Foreman to see if the car is in the Town's right-of-way. A letter will be sent to ask them to move it if it is in the right-of-way.

Antenna: The antenna that has been proposed for the Old Schoolhouse Common would not help AT&T customers, and would only provide service within a half-mile of the Old Schoolhouse. Chris noted that most people in the village probably have AT&T because the other carriers do not provide service in Marshfield. The Board doesn't feel that it is worth pursuing at this time because it wouldn't help very many people.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved a change to the Grand List.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the September 19, 2017 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
